Dear Jim, my attached letter to Bud on House committee 9/28/76

The more I thought of what Bud said on his Sunday visit the more I wondered what was really in and on his mind. If I evaluate this from his words then in this order it was some promise he made to Downing having to do with counsel once he refused and Gonzalez, Gonzalez apparently as much for personal as any other reasons.

If these people are finally listening to me - and I have only an interpretation of what Bud said to indicate this - then I want them to know that when they have a counsel and assuming his is a good one their problems have only just begun.

If I have questions they are explained simply. Rick called me and asked me to give him recommendations. I took the time, as I had earlier with Bud. Bud did not bother to acknolwedge them. Now I am to infer than Downing, who has never spoken to me, has accepted all I've said and in Bud's words has entirely agreed, without Rick or anyone else calling me t o say it or to arrange to get together and do ~~xx~~ some planning for it.

There is no choice but to accept it absent reason not to. But from the past I cannot accept it without any questions at all.

You should get a copy of Gonzalez' letter to Downing. It is a takeover letter. It was premature in other ways. I believe it was ready in advance. While less wild that his record, it has some farout stuff in it. Phrased reasonably. I mean the thoughts.

To use their phrase, the pot has boiled over. We face the question I've always asked: who gets burned?

This strange cabal has brought us to the brink of the greatest disaster yet. In their collection of lusts they have refused to think or have been incapable of ~~x~~ it. If I could be sure that Downing has changed in any material way and that the blacks will be other than as Fauntroy has (I've much more faith in the second possibility) I'd not be at all confident of not having a whirlwind harvest to the sowing of the ill wind.

In what time he has Les is his usual responsible self. He has been in touch with Fauntroy and Stokes. I did delay my letter to Fauntroy until after hearing what Bud had to say. Typically he had exaggerated and shown no basic understanding. He now has to face what he has never faced: what he has done. This is what worr ies me. He said "they" are playing "hardball. " "They don't have to. Thisis more seri ous. He also said the investigation is off when he called me. He mentioned that only briefly, in the sense that Downing might do nothing this year. I don't know which is worse. I have a hunch that dropping it now also would not be good. If permanent .

While for several years I've favored a confrontation at the outset of any investigation as the best means of overcoming the power reluctance to face the realities and as a means of by-passing all the insanities, the nature of this investigation makes it appear to be more essential. The beginning must now do more than esablish at least a reasonable basis in fact and do that in blance and in perspective. It must ~~xxx~~ also provide a basis for immobilizing all the insanities and all their insane and self-seeking proponents. In turn this~~xx~~ requires more. One simplification means getting all the crazy talk about what did not happen back in Pandora's mind while making it comprehensible that there never was an investigation and all these irrelevancies are the direct result of all that was dumped on the Commission as a substitute for a real investigation and that this was possible only because it met the Commission's desires.

Here my focus over all these years on the essential evidence of the crime itself can make the difference. Time will tell. I'm prepared to go farthur than I've told Bud or Rick but I'm not except under my own terms. Until I have some meaningful indications of responsibility I'll not even suggest how. One can lead jackass [illegible]

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